

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of an inspiring leader, a great visionary, and my friend, Dr. Tom Rivera.

Dr. Tom was born on September 22, 1939, in Colton, California. After graduating from Colton High School, he attended San Bernardino Valley College; California State University, Los Angeles; the University of California, Riverside; and eventually UCLA, where he earned his doctorate in education.

It was at Cal State LA that he met the love of his life, Dr. Lily Rivera, who shared his passion for service. Together, they served in the Peace Corps in Colombia, South America, before marrying in 1965.

In all that he did, Dr. Tom strived to inspire his students to achieve their dreams. As associate dean for undergraduate studies at CSU San Bernardino, he was a pillar of the community. He devoted himself to the empowerment of local youth and maintained leadership roles in organizations including the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, LULAC, the Pure Land Foundation, and more.

Dr. Tom was relentless in his advocacy. Even in the face of his own health challenges, he continued his pursuit of a better future where Hispanic youth could achieve their dreams.

In 1984, just 3 years after contracting a virus that left him paralyzed, he helped found the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program, joining forces with fellow educators, Susan Castro, Frank Acosta, Henry Vasquez, and Bill Allison.

Dr. Tom founded the organization to address dropout rates among Hispanic students. His vision was to encourage youth to be proud of their roots and to make a difference in their communities.

All these years later, that vision is fulfilled in the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program's tremendous success. It is fulfilled in the educators, lawyers, doctors, and countless other Inland Empire Future Leaders Program graduates who have gone on to achieve so many great things.

It is fulfilled right here in the Halls of Congress with the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR), my good friend, as Democratic Caucus vice chair, and with me as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

I stand here because of Dr. Tom. Back in the early years, in 1986, I attended one of IEFLP's leadership trainings at Camp Seeley. That summer left a lasting mark on me and changed the course of my future.

I learned the tools of leadership and returned home, motivated to serve the community. I became the first in Coachella Valley High School to be class president and ASB president all 4 years, and I learned to identify problems that needed to be addressed and to become a part of the solution.

The experience strengthened my dream and my resolve to become a doc-

tor and serve the community. You see, Dr. Tom's guidance fueled in me a passion for social justice, a passion I lived as a pre-med student organizer at UCLA.

It is with Dr. Tom's encouragement that I applied to Harvard Medical School to earn my medical degree and graduate with my master's in public health and my master's in public policy from Harvard University.

I am forever indebted to Dr. Tom for his unyielding devotion to my growth and the success of my peers. He was always there for us. He was always there to motivate us, to celebrate us, and to give us a smile when we needed it most.

He gave us a family, a familia, in which we found reassurance and strength. All IEFLP graduates share a common bond because of him. To this day, when I meet a fellow Inland Empire Future Leaders Program graduate, we reminisce about his kindness and grace.

We said good-bye to Dr. Tom just last month, in March 2022. However, we know that his legacy will live on in each and every one of us. We know that his memory will survive in the hearts of his beloved wife, Dr. Lily; his brother, Ray; his children, Evelyn, Patricia, and Tom; and all of his wonderful grandchildren.

Together, we mourn his passing and celebrate his full life, knowing that he was a good man and an extraordinary public servant whose impact will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF DR. TOM RIVERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to follow the words of my good friend, Dr. RAUL RUIZ, as we honor this towering figure from our region, the Inland Empire.

For more than 50 years, Dr. Rivera served our community as an educator, administrator, and community leader. His passing in March was felt by all of us, and it left too large of a void for just one of us to fill.

Back in 1985, our region suffered. More than half of the Latino students in our region didn't finish high school.

While others ignored the problem, Dr. Tom rolled up his sleeves as an elected school board member, as a lifelong educator. He joined with community leaders to form the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program to help these students stay in school.

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As a result, more than 99 percent of the students who go through this program have graduated high school. Ninety percent have gone to college. Dr. Tom's positive influence, his beliefs in what we could become if given the opportunity, helped shape doctors, lawyers, teachers, and, yes, a couple Members of Congress.

Dr. Tom gave working-class kids like me a chance for a better life, for ourselves and for our family, and he taught us that no matter where life takes us, never lose sight of our heritage and our culture, and always give back to our community.

It is a testament to his unwavering faith in our young people that Dr. RAUL RUIZ and I are standing on the House floor today. I was proud to call Dr. Tom a mentor, a friend, and importantly, a constituent. He would always ask me how my grandmother was doing. He went to school on the south side of Colton with members of my family, and he always took the time to ask how they were doing, what they were up to, how he could help them.

My thoughts go out to his wife, Dr. Lily Rivera, his children, and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, now it is our responsibility, those of us in roles of making policy, those of us in our communities who strive to make our community a better place, it is up to us to carry his legacy forward and to lift up the next generation of Latino leaders.

CONCERNS ABOUT KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize my concern about President Biden's U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Ketanji Brown Jackson, commonly known as KBJ, and to express my deep disappointment for any Senator that votes for her confirmation this week.

While I do not have a vote on KBJ's confirmation, I do have a voice. And I will continue using my voice to tell the American people the truth.

The truth is that Ketanji Brown Jackson is incapable of holding criminals accountable.

Throughout her career, Judge Jackson's sentences have been drastically lower than the national average, even for individuals who have committed the most egregious crimes imaginable.

When analyzing all criminal case sentencing imposed by U.S. District Courts, Judge Jackson issued significantly lighter sentences, almost 34 percent less than the national average.

Specifically, the statistics reveal a more sinister pattern when broken down to child pornography and child sex torture cases.

When sentencing criminals for possession of child pornography, KBJ imposed sentences 57 percent less than the national average. Additionally, she issued sentences 47 percent less than the national average for those convicted of distributing these atrocious images of child sex torture.

Disturbingly, child sex torture, one of the most heinous crimes of all, is met with compassion and concessions from Judge Jackson.

In fact, here are some quotes from KBJ in the U.S. v. Hawkins cases involving Mr. Hawkins, an 18-year-old adult man charged with downloading many images and videos of innocent children being tortured by sex offenders. During this case KBJ said: "I feel so sorry for you"—in reference to Mr. Hawkins himself—"and for the anguish that this has caused all of you."

Judge Jackson feels sorry for the perpetrator. Excuse me? What about the victims and the anguish that this torture has caused them?

In addition, KBJ stated: "This seems to be a situation in which you were fascinated by sexual images involving what were essentially your peers."

Peers? Really?

The vile content Mr. Hawkins possessed depicted boys as young as 8 years old. Mr. Hawkins was 18 at the time, over twice their age.

Keep in mind, the sentencing guidelines called for up to 10 years in prison for Mr. Hawkins, yet Ketanji Brown Jackson sentenced this predator to just 3 months in jail. Three months.

Madam Speaker, we are not talking about someone who disobeyed traffic laws. This is a man convicted of possessing multiple images of child sex torture.

This is sickening and wrong, plain and simple.

It is not just Judge Jackson's record that is worthy of outrage. Revelations from her recent testimony speak volumes to KBJ's interest in legislating from the bench.

When asked to provide the definition for the word "woman," KBJ absurdly said she could not, adding that she isn't a biologist.

Can you think of a more illogical excuse? The word "woman" is a term I am sure that most third graders can accurately describe with ease.

By failing to define a woman, Judge Jackson has shown her true narrative to the American people, exposing her loyalty to the woke left. It is no secret that radical activists are waging a bizarre and dangerous war on women. From women's sports to large corporations, liberals are attempting to erase women while claiming to fight for women's rights.

So by refusing to define a woman, Judge Jackson has revealed that she both accepts and supports the left's treacherous agenda. Furthermore, KBJ's inability to accept and acknowledge the differences between men and women raises serious doubt and questions about her ability to decide judicial outcomes regarding sex, such as title IX cases.

Bottom line, Ketanji Brown Jackson's resistance to the realities that exist between men and women is deeply unsettling and proves that she will adjudicate with an agenda, an immoral agenda that is blatantly wrong for our country.

In another disheartening display of her disqualifications, KBJ also refused to recognize Americans' natural rights.

From the founding of our great country, both our citizenry and our government have acknowledged that we are provided unalienable rights by our creator. It is unconscionable that a nominee to our Nation's highest court would reject this foundational principle, and it is alarming that Senators will still ignore KBJ's appalling testimony and vote for her to serve our judicial system for life.

Mark my words, Ketanji Brown Jackson's refusal to acknowledge Americans' natural rights from God is a Trojan horse for tyranny, presenting yet another glaring example of why she is unfit for the Supreme Court.

We know she is soft on crime. We know she is a vessel for the woke left's dangerous ideology. And we know she cannot definitively defend Americans' God-given rights or precious freedoms.

Yet, despite KBJ's frightening record and recent testimony, the Senate intends to vote on her confirmation to the Supreme Court this week.

If KBJ becomes a Supreme Court Justice, she will serve for decades, solidifying and strengthening the left's menacing grip on our rule of law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CLYDE. Her decisions will impact future Americans for generations to come, setting precedent that will ultimately guide our great Nation once you and I are long gone.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CLYDE. Without question, Americans from Maine, Utah to Alaska, from sea to shining sea, are watching intently, praying their Senators' vote will represent—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

JUDGE JACKSON DESERVES CONFIRMATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I stand before you to talk about two topics: The confirmation of Judge Jackson, as well as the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Judge Jackson is more qualified than the people with whom she will serve, and she is not soft on crime. It is why she has the endorsement of the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Police Chiefs, hardly the radical left.

As we look at the opportunity to make history, we want to make sure that our Supreme Court is representative and reflective of our entire Nation.

Judge Jackson deserves confirmation. She has earned it, and she will be someone that we are proud to have on the Supreme Court.

RESTAURANT RELIEF

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, this week is one to celebrate. After almost a year of bipartisan, bicameral

negotiations, the House will finally take up legislation to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and move us one step closer to getting much-needed relief for restaurants across the finish line.

The funds provided by Congress in 2021 were a lifeline for so many businesses in Washington State and across our Nation. Restaurants were hit especially hard by highly transmissible COVID-19 variants, staffing shortages, supply chain issues, and inflation, which only added to the existing challenges and long-term effects that brought many to the brink of closing their doors for good.

Restaurants have lost 2 years' worth of revenue, and it will take them years to recover and repay their debts. In fact, in Washington State alone, the average full-service restaurant reports being \$160,000 in debt, and it would take them over 3 years to repay it.

I know how critical this second round of funding is because I regularly hear about it from my constituents. The south Puget Sound of Washington State is the proud home of so many small, local restaurants, including Vien Dong in the Lincoln International District and Budd Bay Cafe in Olympia, to name a few.

Many businesses are still struggling to get back on their feet, and most were shut out from ever receiving relief in the first place.

That is why on February 10, I led the Washington State delegation in sending a letter to congressional leadership urging them to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and help these employers and employees in need as soon as possible.

These businesses are often neighborhood anchors and family-owned. They are often owned by women, veterans, minorities, and immigrants. They are a critical part of the south Sound and Washington State's economy. We must do everything we can to support them and push for an equitable and inclusive recovery.

FARMERS FACE ENORMOUS AND IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the full Agriculture Committee hearing that we held on March 16, the focus of which was the 2018 farm bill and the role of climate change.

Recently, The New York Times wrote a series of stories and produced several videos denigrating rural Americans for providing the country with the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the history of the world.

Let's set the record straight. U.S. agriculture accounts for less than 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, and that is according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Over the last 70